

THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC RECREATION COMMISSION

December 19, 2006

The regular meeting of the Public Recreation Commission was held on December 19, 2006 at 4:00pm at the Recreation Commission Main Office with the following members present: Mmes. Driehaus and Ingram and Messrs. Fultz, Moeddel, Smith, Harris and Lawson with Ms. Driehaus presiding. Staff in attendance: Mmes. Cox, Glos, Yemaya, Brewster, and Simmons and Messrs. Garges, Bigham, Koopman, Thomas, LeConey, Brondhaver, and Williams.

Aquatic Staff Recognition

Mr. Garges introduced Jincey Yemaya to the Commission. Ms. Yemaya stated that on Thursday, the 7th of December a group from Mt. Washington was at the Over-the-Rhine pool for a party. Lifeguard Ali Borne noticed a boy on the bottom of the deep end of the pool. She alerted the other lifeguard, Andrew Sierschula, then entered the pool. She brought the victim up to the side of the deep end. He was unconscious. Lifeguard Sierschula assessed for consciousness, breathing and pulse and performed rescue breaths. EMS arrived, assessed the boy and gave him oxygen then transported him to the hospital. The victim, Ricky Brown, later told Ms. Yemaya that he had slipped and fell into the deep end of the pool and had went unconscious.

Mr. Garges advised that City Manager Dohoney recognized Ms. Borne and Mr. Sierschula at his Manager's meeting and last week at the Employee Recognition Ceremony they were presented the Medal of Valor. We congratulate them on a job well done.

Ms. Driehaus told Ms. Yemaya that this speaks volumes to our product and that the Commission appreciates all her training and efforts.

Presentation of Christmas Cards

Steve LeConey introduced Kelly Kerr and the cheerleading team. Ms. Kerr gave a short presentation of the cheerleading program and stated how well things are going with the 5 communities represented at the Millvale Community Center. The cheerleading team is made up of participants from each of the communities.

The cheerleaders performed a cheer and presented Christmas cards to the Commission members, Mr. Garges, and Ms. Schoenig.

Recognition of Dottie Monterosso of the Madisonville Community

Mr. Garges stated that Ms. Monterosso has been a true friend of recreation for a long, long time and she has done an absolutely outstanding job in the community.

Mike Thomas stated that Ms. Monterossa is always positive and has had great ideas for Bramble Park. Mr. Thomas told Ms. Monterossa that CRC truly appreciates everything she has done for us at Bramble. Ms. Monterossa advised that she would like to plant the seed that we are not finished yet, there are more things the community would like to do at the park. Mary Cox thanked Ms. Monterossa for all her work and stated that Ms. Monterossa keeps Bramble Park clean and nice for the community.

Ms. Driehaus presented Ms. Monterossa with a plaque of recognition and gratitude for all she has done for recreation and the Madisonville community.

Recognition of Youth Commission Members

Our youth Commission members, Jacob Lawson and Ean Harris, were presented with plaques and certificates recognizing their service on the Cincinnati Recreation Commission. Mr. Garges and Ms. Driehaus thanked Mr. Lawson and Mr. Harris for their participation and wished them well in their futures.

MINUTES

Mr. Moeddel moved, seconded by Rev. Smith, to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2006 meeting as submitted.

Motion passed.

BIDS

The bid for the Bush Community Center renovation did not come in on time to bring it before the Commission.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Nancy Fluharty

Willie Carden, Director of the Parks Department, forwarded a letter from Nancy Fluharty to Mr. Garges. The letter commended staff for the fine preparation and maintenance of the Riverfront Park areas during Tall Stacks. This item was received for filing.

Email from Louise Watts

Mr. Garges received an email from Louise Watts, Chair of the Treasures of Northside House Tour, thanking the McKie Recreation Center staff for their ongoing support of the event. This item was received for filing.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Program Highlight – West Region

Steve LeConey, Supervising Recreation Coordinator for the West Region, introduced Diane Glos to Commission. Ms. Glos gave a power point presentation on the Artist in Residence Program. Jean Howat Berry was the Artist in Residence. The program took place at St. Williams Church on W. Eighth Street. There was excellent participation from the community. Grants from Invest in Neighborhoods and Summertime Kids helped fund the program.

Participants in the program learned about uniqueness of individuals as well as working as a community together. One goal of the program was to bridge any cultural diversity divides between the children of East Price Hill and the children of West Price Hill. The program was a great opportunity for children to find positive ways of expressing themselves, to build self-esteem and have fun.

The Artist in Residence Program won an award from OPRA. Ms. Glos stated that we are one of the first Ohio agencies to receive this award. Steve LeConey stated that Ms. Glos did a great job with this program.

Information and Briefing Items

Mr. Garges advised that there is going to be another budget hearing this evening at 6pm in Council Chambers. Everyone is welcome to attend the hearing. Normal process is for the Finance Committee to present a budget to Council tomorrow.

Mr. Garges thanked Commission for all of the support they have given during the budget process. He stated that Chris Bigham has done a wonderful job.

Youth Report

Ean Harris gave the Youth Commission Member Report.

Over 60 teens and 15 staff met at the Oakley Recreation Center on December 6th to help develop a 3 – 5 year strategic plan and 2007 activities. It was very evident that the teens know what they want and are not shy about stating their wishes. The information received from this summit will be very helpful in 2007 and future planning.

The last teen social for 2006 is a trip to Marquette Manor for Christmas Caroling. Approximately 30 teens will sing carols and play bingo with the seniors.

Youth Commissioner, Jacob Lawson, thanked the Commission for the last year and a half. He told Commission that he learned a lot and has had fun being a part of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission. He had an opportunity to meet people that he never thought he'd be able to meet.

Capital Project Update

Jeff Koopman provided the Capital Project Update for December 2006 and reviewed it with Commission.

Mr. Koopman also provided Commissioners with copies of the Aquatic Facility Evaluation and Prototype Design. This evaluation will be reviewed at the January 2nd workshop beginning at 4:00pm in the Main Boardroom.

NEW BUSINESS

Field Trips

Mr. Moeddel moved, seconded by Rev. Smith, to approve the field trips for various CRC centers and programs as submitted.

Motion passed.

Lifetime Golf Privileges Policy

Ms. Driehaus advised that the spirit of awarding Lifetime Golf Privileges was to recognize those who have made major contributions to the Cincinnati Recreation Commission and that the policy was established to make sure persons nominated met that criteria.

Mr. Moeddel stated that he was not a member of the Commission when the Lifetime Golf Privileges Policy was instituted and would like to understand what the policy means to the other Commissioners.

Mr. Fultz stated that there was a time when we didn't need a policy to govern who received the privileges. He further stated that it wasn't felt that a policy was necessary until he began nominating African Americans for the privileges.

Rev. Smith advised that he believes it is important to understand what the policy says. He believes that the 15 years of service to the promotion, growth of play or facility improvement at CRC golf courses should include other contributions besides participation in the Golf Advisory Committee. Ms. Driehaus and Ms. Ingram agreed on this point. They also stated that they would like to see the policy "tightened up" so it would be evident if a nominated person qualified for Lifetime Golf Privileges.

After much discussion the following Lifetime Golf Privileges Policy was proposed:

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission may grant Lifetime Golf Privileges to an individual who has made a major contribution to the success of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission golf program. Individuals should not be employed by the City of Cincinnati or the CRC golf course management firm at the time of their contribution. Major contribution shall be defined as:

1. A minimum of 15 years of service to the promotion, growth of play or facility improvement at CRC golf courses. If Golf Advisory Committee Service is included, other major contributions to the CRC golf program must be made during the 15 year period.
2. A significant monetary contribution to improve golf facilities.

Golf privileges include free play and use of a golf cart at any CRC course or driving range. No guest privileges are included.

This policy will be presented to the Commission for approval at the January 2007 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Request for Lifetime Golf Privileges for Christine P. Greene

Mr. Fultz moved to have Lifetime Golf Privileges awarded to Christine P. Greene. After much discussion Rev. Smith seconded this motion.

Motion passed.

Request for Lifetime Golf Privileges for Major McNeal

Mr. Fultz moved to have Lifetime Golf Privileges awarded to Major McNeal. After much discussion this motion failed. Ms. Driehaus, Rev. Smith, and Mr. Moeddel felt that the service listed on Major McNeal's request did not indicate that the service was related to CRC activities. It was stated that if these activities could be confirmed to be CRC related, Major McNeal's request would be reevaluated.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made that an Executive Session of the Recreation Commission be held pursuant to Section 121.22(G) of the Ohio Revised Code for charges or complaints against employees to consider the dismissal, discipline or demotion of a public employee. Roll call: Ms. Driehaus, yes; Rev. Smith, yes; Mr. Fultz, yes; Mr. Moeddel, yes; Ms. Ingram, yes.

The Commission came out of Executive Session and the General Session resumed.

Personnel Action

Mr. Moeddel moved, seconded by Ms. Ingram, to approve the Hearing Officer's recommendation of 8 hours suspension for the charge of Excessive Absenteeism, 8 hours suspension for the charge of Inefficiency and Neglect of Duty, and 8 hours suspension for the second charge of Inefficiency and Neglect of Duty (total suspension – 24 hours), for Larry Hummons, Truck Driver.

Motion passed.

COMMISSION MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Recreation Commission will be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2007 at 4:00pm at the Mt. Washington Community Center, 1715 Beacon Street (30)

Meeting Adjourned.